Fund for agricultural research

†1941. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for optimum modernisation and strengthening of agriculture on the basis of scientific researches and its outcome in the field of agricultural development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken a decision to create a national fund for agricultural research; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard, so far, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Scheme 'National Fund for Agricultural Research' has been approved. An empowered Committee under Dr. C.N.R. Rao has been constituted to approve the Projects under this Fund. The first meeting of this empowered Committee is scheduled for 23rd March, 2006.

Wastage of crop during harvesting and marketing

†1942. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major part of the crops of farmers, constituting about 65 per cent of our population in the country, engaged in agriculture sector goes waste during the process of harvesting and taking the crop to the market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no provision for its prevention has been made in any of the budgets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.